

sides of the aisle that want to help working families. Let us not get confused by the calculations that are being used to determine whether people are rich or not.

We know whether people work or not, we know whether they pay taxes or not. Americans would be amazed to find out that the calculations that are being used to determine their wealth include the rental value of their home. If they own their home or are making payments on their home, the payment on their home is less than their home would rent for. Suddenly, they get a big rental value added to their income. Those things that their employer may have given them as benefits are added to their income.

More than half of the family incomes of teachers, of construction workers, of mechanics would be classified as rich if we calculate family income the way the White House wants to. We cannot do that.

Let us be fair, let us work with each other, let us help working families make ends meet.

LABOR DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION IS POLITICAL WITCH-HUNT

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as a new member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I was surprised to learn last week that the Speaker had just awarded the subcommittee \$1½ million out of a political slush fund to conduct an emergency investigation on labor unions and working men and women around the country. First of all, when we are trying to balance the budget, where are we coming up with an additional \$1.5 million for a political witch-hunt that will send us on a fishing expedition all over the country. Just another investigation.

Here is a novel idea, if the Committee on Education and the Workforce has an additional \$1.5 million, why do we not spend it on education and worker training such as the TRIO Program. That is a program that goes to low-income students to prepare them for higher education learning.

In fact, the two largest universities in my district in western Wisconsin, Eau Claire and La Crosse, service roughly 2,000 low-income students in the TRIO Program. Another \$1½ million will double that amount.

I think we should use our taxpayer dollars wisely instead of going on another fishing expedition conducting an unlimited investigation on unwarranted charges.

UNCLE SAM CAN GET BY ON LESS FROM MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

(Mr. RADANOVICH asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, if we had a rich uncle and we were barely making ends meet, would we be giving him more of our paycheck every 2 weeks? I think that is what we are doing. We are giving Uncle Sam more and more of our hard-earned money every year. Is it not time the rich uncle started letting us keep a little more?

Republicans in Congress think so. We have a tax relief plan that gives taxpayers a break at every stage of life. It helps middle-class families who have been hit hardest by expanding government these past 40 years. It helps middle-class families save for college by providing tax incentives for kids to go to college. It lowers the tax on savings and investment, which means a stronger economy and more jobs. And it reduces the death tax, which means that fewer families will have to sell the family farm or family businesses when the owner dies.

Uncle Sam can get by with a little less. Let us support the Republican tax package that provides tax relief to middle-class families at every stage of life.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR PROVISION IN TAX BILL WILL HURT MIDDLE-INCOME WORKERS

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, there is a real snake in the woodpile in this tax bill that nobody is talking about. There is a little provision in there that says an employer can declare an employee an independent contractor. That \$500 tax credit per child will not mean a heck of a lot to a taxpayer if suddenly they find out they are responsible for all their own health insurance, paying their own FICA, and paying their payroll tax.

This is something that will also cost the American taxpayer an estimated \$2.2 billion over the next 10 years. Let me quote Secretary of the Treasury, Robert Rubin, and what he has to say about this one provision.

"The provisions for independent contractor status would permit employers to avoid essential worker protections." Think about this, constituents. I want everyone to know about this one. At a time when we are trying to expand health and pension coverage, this proposal could lead to widespread shifting of employees to independent contractor status.

No longer an employee, but on their own. They would take away the protections such as pension and health coverage and, consequently, wage and hour protections, unemployment insurance benefits, and compensation for work related injuries. Wake up America, it is coming.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT NOT BEING STRAIGHT WITH AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. CAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, the Treasury Department is not being straight with the American people. The Treasury Department is using misleading, bogus information about the bipartisan tax relief package.

For example, they use something called family economic income. Now, people are probably wondering what is family economic income? That is the imputed rental value of a home, even though one does not plan to rent it; inside buildup on a pension or benefits one may receive at work.

That is a definition of income that was dropped by the Joint Tax Committee, which is a bipartisan committee, Democrat and Republican, House and Senate, and they dropped that definition of income when the Democrats were in control of the Congress.

I think those who are calling family economic income the correct definition will have a hard time explaining to the schoolteachers, truck drivers, waitresses, factory workers, farmers, and nurses in my district that they are rich.

According to the Treasury Department's absurd calculation, family economic income would take someone earning \$45,000 a year and, for purposes of that calculation, say they earned \$75,000 a year. I guess anything to deny middle-class tax relief.

REPUBLICAN TAX RELIEF—TAKE A TURN ON THE WEB

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Speaker GINGRICH stood in the well of this House and he invited the American people to visit the House Republican web site, calculate their estimated tax savings under the Republican plan.

So I thought, let us see how an average working tax-paying mom with two kids would fare under the Republican plan. Let me just say I received an error message saying they could not calculate her savings. Perhaps that is because this family would get a big fat zero. No tax break at all under the Republican plan.

Then I entered in the data for someone making \$1 million a year, half of that in capital gains. The Republican calculator had no problem figuring out their tax break: \$40,000.

That is true. A millionaire gets \$40,000 back and a working taxpaying mother in this country gets zero.

The Washington Post editorial this morning hit it right on the nose. "The Republicans have written a tax bill